

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-12 ISO-00 /094 W
-----031340 231924Z /45

P R 231719Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3789
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20067

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

GENEVA FOR SALTDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, FR
SUBJ: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
IN EUROPE

REF: STATE 158598 DTG 212341Z JUN 78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF CONVEYED REFTEL POINTS TO
QUAI OFFICER WHO FOUND US POSITION DISAPPOINTING. RE
PARA 11 STATEMENT "THAT NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSED BY
FRANCE MIGHT BE A USEFUL SEQUEL TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT,"
QUAI OFFICIAL ASKED IF US MEANT THAT THESE NEGOTIA-
TIONS SHOULD FOLLOW CONCLUSION OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT.

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ACTION REQUESTED: RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION. END
SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO REFTEL INSTRUCTION, EMBOFF ON JUNE 22
CALLED ON GERALD DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE, ACTING CHIEF OF
PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY (DE LA
FERRIERE IS IN WASHINGTON WITH PAGNIEZ FOR BILATERALS).

EMBOFF WENT THROUGH PARAS 3-11 REFTEL, NOTING THAT WE WELCOME FRENCH INTEREST BUT BELIEVE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT RELATES DIRECTLY TO INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE. THUS THE ALLIANCE IS PROPER FORUM FOR CONSIDERING FRENCH PROPOSAL AS INDICATED BY GOF AT NATO WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

3. DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE CONFIRMED THAT GOF INTENDS TO CONSULT ON ITS PROPOSAL IN BRUSSELS. EMBOFF CONTINUED THAT WE WISH TO INSURE THAT FRENCH PROPOSAL DOES NOT UNDERCUT PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT IN MBFR. DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE SAID THAT FRENCH VIEW DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT TWO NEGOTIATIONS COULD MOVE IN PARALLEL IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. WITH REGARD TO SOVIET RESPONSE TO WESTERN MBFR INITIATIVE, DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM OWEN, GENSCHER, AND SECRETARY VANCE THAT THIS WAS NOT A "BREAKTHROUGH." EMBOFF RESPONDED (PER PARA 9 REFTEL) THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL BUT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO DISTRACT ATTENTION AND IMPETUS FROM VIENNA BY OPENING ANOTHER NEGOTIATION.

4. EMBOFF POINTED OUT NATO IS EXAMINING A NEW PACKAGE OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES FOR MBFR. FRENCH CONFERENCE MIGHT DILUTE THIS EFFORT. NATO MAY WISH TO LOOK AT FRENCH PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO CSCE/CBMS AS
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WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE A

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P R 231719Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3790
INFO USMISSION USNATO
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USEFUL SEQUEL TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT. EMBOFF THEN
HANDED OVER NON-PAPER WITH TEXT OF PARAS 3-11 OF REFTEL.

5. DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, FOUND
US POSITION "DISAPPOINTING" AND "COOL." HE REITERATED
THAT GOF WAS ALREADY PREPARED TO CONSULT IN NATO ON
ITS PROPOSAL AND THAT MBFR AND THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
COULD PROCEED "IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS." HE ASKED IF
US POSITION HAD BEEN ALSO GIVEN TO PAGNIEZ IN WASHING-
TON BILATERALS.

6. RETURNING TO FINAL SENTENCE RE "SEQUEL TO AN
MBFR AGREEMENT," DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE ASKED IF US
ACTUALLY MEANT THAT CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY FRANCE
SHOULD FOLLOW AN MBFR AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT MBFR
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HAS BEEN GOING ON FIVE YEARS ALREADY. THIS COULD
MEAN AN INDEFINITE DELAY. IN CONCLUSION, DE LA
ROCHEFORDIERE UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT THE US POSITION
TO HIS SUPERIORS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: RESPONSE AS TO WHETHER US, BY
"SEQUEL," MEANS THAT NATO SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY
THAT FRENCH PROPOSED CONFERENCE WOULD FOLLOW AFTER
CONCLUSION OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT, SO THAT WE MAY
RESPOND TO QUAI.
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